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To Whom it May Concern:

This is in support of bills HB 5054 and SB 429

My husband had quite a gun collection - all registered. His favorite was his 357 magnum handgun which he used to shoot me and then kill himself in the Courthouse of Wayne County, Pennsylvania in 1977. Because he threatened me with the gun I was able to flee my home with my children while he slept. I hid the children with relatives and then stayed with a friend. He came to my job and threatened me again. I swore out a Protection from Abuse Order and went into hiding on suggestion from the police and a lawyer. In those days you had to put the address where you lived on the Order. I could not remember the number of my friends house so he stalked me for the two weeks until the mandatory hearing in court. He wore his pistol in a shoulder holster into the courthouse and when the lawyers agreed that I should go out into the hallway and speak to him he shot me and then killed himself. He allowed me to see the gun before he shot so I had time to run. The surgeon who operated on me said it was a miracle that I survived. However, I will live with the physical and psychological after effects my entire life.

It is my firm belief that if his guns had been taken away at the time the Order was served this tragedy might have been prevented. Certainly he would also have needed psychiatric treatment. He was one of those proud gun owners who always said "guns don't kill people- people do". He was right, but it is people with guns who kill people.

I hope this testimony has been helpful. I am available if you wish to ask me any questions.
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